

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, January 2, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO COLONEL ROBERT HAYS.

n. p. January 2, 1816.¹

¹ The date is written "1815", which is evidently an error. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson were now on the road from Washington to Nashville, somewhere in Virginia. Two days earlier they were in Lynchburg.

Sir: Mrs. Hays has been nameing to me, her wish to buy Tom and his wife. This I had once named to Mrs. Hays that I Thought they would suit her. When Tom ran away, and from certain things that has been sugested of and about them, and their price etc etc by some branches of the family, I thought it best for the sake of Justice to my own feelings and Justice to Mrs. Hays—that Negroes should be Bot. with the cash that becomes due from Mr Priestly the first day of June next—on that day there will be the ballance of \$2000. after deducting \$1107. and the interest thereon from the month of Sept. untill the contract with Doctor Priestly was confirmed which will be about Eight hundred and Eighty Dollars or thereabout out of which I did furnish Stockly to redeem Patseys land \$25 which will leave a ballance of about \$850. or 55 dollars to be laid out in such Negroes as Mrs. Hays may choose to buy. as soon as I return, this money on bond can be appropriated to the purchase of Negroes such as Mrs. Hays chooses to have Bot., and if I have any thing to do in the thing it will be by first shewing the Negro and Mrs. Hays fixing the price. for I find so many lately, advising and commenting on the vallue of property, that I begin to doubt whether I am even competant to Judge for myself. The sale I intended to make to Mrs. Hays I did think would be advantageous to her and the payment would have met all my

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wishes, but so soon as I learnt, the comments that were made, by some branches of the family, I immediately converted these Negroes to the object of meeting my debts and the money on the first of June shall be religiously held for the appropriation of Mrs. Hays. as soon as I return If any negroes I obtain or have for market, or can obtain suits Mrs. Hays it will give me pleasure to furnish them to her, and take Doctor Priestlys debt as cash. I only wait for Benj. Prior to set out. I shall return in 20 days yours as usual with respect